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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: Election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 20 April 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

The Permanent Mission of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat and, in accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 60/251, has the honour to transmit the voluntary pledges and commitments to human rights made by the Kyrgyz Republic, a candidate for the 12 May 2009 elections to the Human Rights Council for the period 2009-2012 (see annex).

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Annex to the note verbale dated 20 April 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat

[Original: Russian]

The voluntary human rights commitments of the Kyrgyz Republic

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic, which attaches particular importance to strengthening and promoting human rights protection, has decided to put forward its candidacy for membership in the Human Rights Council for the term 2009-2012 in the elections to be held during the sixty-third session of the General Assembly in 2009 in New York.

The Kyrgyz Republic, as the sole candidate from the Central Asian region, aspires to one of the five vacant seats in the Asian regional group of the Human Rights Council.

Ever since it became independent, the Kyrgyz Republic has demonstrated its commitment to the idea of the universality of human rights as well as its dedication to the principles of democracy and the rule of law. Kyrgyzstan is party to over 30 of the basic human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Our country makes timely submissions to the relevant human rights treaty bodies of periodic reports on its fulfilment of the provisions of the treaties mentioned.

In announcing its candidacy, the Kyrgyz Republic fully affirms its commitments to the advancement and protection of human rights nationally and internationally. At the national level, Kyrgyzstan will preserve the primacy of law and democracy, good governance and development as key principles in the advancement of human rights. The Kyrgyz Republic will also reinforce various national institutions that guarantee these rights and will continue its full support of their activities, including that of the Office of the Ombudsman of Kyrgyzstan.

Furthermore, as party to all the basic international human rights treaties, Kyrgyzstan firmly believes that genuine strengthening of the rule of law is the best guarantee of the sustainable development of individuals and groups.

At the international level, Kyrgyzstan is actively involved in the United Nations human rights procedures. The Kyrgyz Republic fully supports and actively cooperates with various international organizations in the area of human rights and fundamental freedoms. As the sponsor and supporter of various human rights resolutions, Kyrgyzstan emphasizes its commitments under the relevant special procedures. The Kyrgyz Republic will continue to support the various United Nations mechanisms promoting and protecting human rights as universal human values, including through the Human Rights Council, which is the most important United Nations specialized body for human rights, open dialogue and cooperation among peoples. The Kyrgyz Republic is in favour of impartial, objective and non-selective activities by this United Nations body, based on constructive dialogue and cooperation.

Widely acknowledged as a crossroads of various civilizations and cultures, Kyrgyzstan has shown itself to be a defender of peace, tolerance and mutual understanding among peoples. Adhering to the fundamental principles of its historic identity, Kyrgyzstan continues to make every effort to promote intercultural and interdenominational dialogue.

The Kyrgyz Republic attaches great significance to elections to the Human Rights Council. We firmly intend to expand the range of our relevant commitments in this area. Given what nas been stated above, we believe that the States Members of the United Nations will support the candidacy of the Kyrgyz Republic in the elections to the Human Rights Council for the term 2009-2012.